

Application No. 09/328,939
Amendment dated January 26, 2004
Reply to Office Action of July 25, 2003

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3, 5, 9-11, 21, and 23-29 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 23 were amended. Support for the new and amended claims can be found in the specification. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner has indicated a few minor informalities with the Information Disclosure Statement. Applicants have attached a copy of Application Serial No. 09/268,203 and Japanese Patent 75229. These informalities should be moot.

Claims 23-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. As shown, claim 23 has been amended. Accordingly, claims 23-29 should be patentable under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 9, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Moslehi, U.S. Patent No. 5,089,441. Clearly, Moslehi fails to show or suggest the claimed combination including the Gas B is selected from hydrogen chloride or hydrogen bromide; wherein Gas C comprises a flow rate defined as a ratio of an amount of hydrogen in Gas-B to that in Gas-A is larger than 1/480, as recited by claim 1. Moslehi, however, taught "HCl/HBr:H₂ flow ratio is less than about 50 sccm:12000 sccm." Column 5, lines 18-20. Such flow rate taught by Moslehi relates to an amount of hydrogen of less than about 50:12000 X 2 (two hydrogen for each molecule of gas) that equals 50:24000 or 1/480, which is not within the claimed range of larger than 1/480. Additionally, Moslehi fails to show or suggest the present method of surface treatment in a substantially downstream position of a plasma source to substantially be free from an undesirable influence of a reactive species from the plasma source, where an object to be processed is downstream from the plasma source. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over Moslehi. Dependent claims 2, 5, 9, 10, 11 and 21 are also patentable for at least these reasons and others.

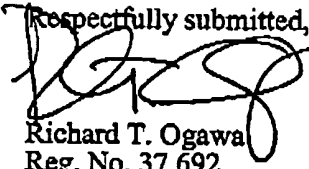
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

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